



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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December 18, 2001

In Reply Refer To:
9210 (P)
CA-943

EMS TRANSMISSION: 12/18/01
Information Bulletin No. CA-2002-015

To: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation Management

From: State Director

Subject: California's Strategy for Completing Fire Management Plans

In response to WO IM No. 2002-034, the following attachment covers California's strategy for completing Fire Management Plans by the end of FY 2004.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Ed Wehking, State Fire Management Officer at (916) 978-4431.

Signed by:
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1 Attachment:
Strategy for Completion (2 pp)

California's Fire Management Plan Amendments and Strategy for Completion

California completed their clarification of fire management categories and RMP-level decisions prior to FY2000. Based on direction in the fire management categories, California justified the economic viability of its current preparedness program as documented in the current Fire Management Plan.

In FY2001, California completed a Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies (RAMS) Workshop. Upon completion, this process allowed the fire manager to take a holistic approach to analyzing wildland fuel hazards, ignition risk, and value and protection capability across the wildland landscape. It considers the effects of fire and unit ecosystems by taking a coordinated approach to planning at a landscape or compartment level. The approach used required that the fuels, mitigation and suppression facets of the fire management program were addressed. The results of this evaluation is used to identify priority areas where fire management actions, resources and budget are focused to reduce costs and losses, in support of existing land use decisions.

Goal

1. Incorporate mitigation, burn plan rehabilitation, and fuels reduction and restoration activities that contribute to ecosystem sustainability into Fire Management Plans and resource management plans.

Action

- < Determine that the fire management categories accurately reflect RMP level decisions.
- < Update fire management categories/RMP if they are determined not to support the wildland fire policy/national fire plan.
- < Determine that the current risk assessment and mitigation strategy is in support of considerations identified in current/updated fire management categories.
- < Update the RAMS program if current program is not in compliance with land use decisions.
- < Update all plans to include burn plan rehabilitation and restoration activities under direction found in land use decisions Analysis of existing planning will be completed by the end of FY2002. Updates will be completed by the end of FY2003

Goal

2. Respond to wildland fires based on approved Fire Management Plans and land use plans regardless of ignition source or the location of the ignition. The management response to fires, regardless of source, must be based on the approved Fire Management Plan. Fire Management Plans, based on the land management objectives of the area, guide the appropriate response through criteria and prescriptions.

Action

- < Update all fire management plans to address appropriate management response in support of management objectives. All management response actions will be based on direction derived from RMP-level decisions.
- < Appropriate management response will be incorporated into Fire Management Plans and will include go/no go checklists and prescriptive criteria to meet fire/land use plan objectives. This portion of the update will be completed by May 1, 2003.

Goal

3. Complete, or update, by the end of FY 2004 Fire Management Plans for all areas with burnable vegetation. Fire Management Plans, based on the underlying land use plans, are the principle foundation for implementation of the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy.

Action

- < California is committed to landscape scale/interagency fire planning. California will submit a comprehensive strategy in concert with the interagency work group's "schedule of completion for FMPs by the end of 2004" once their template is made available.

Goal

4. Consider whether land use plan amendments are needed to implement the National Fire Plan and comply with the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy if plans are not undergoing revision in the near future. A Fire Management Plan in compliance with the Federal Fire Policy must be based on the area's land use plan which identifies the fire management decisions outlined in Appendix C of the Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1). If a land use plan does not identify the necessary fire decisions and if the plan is not currently scheduled to be revised or replaced, work with land use planning staff to ensure that plan amendments are scheduled. By the end of FY 2004, Fire Management Plans will be updated as necessary to reflect the fire management guidance found in land use plans.